

Saugatuck Township Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 7th 2018, 6pm

Saugatuck Township Hall, 3461 Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck, MI 49453

Approved Minutes

Supervisor Roerig called the meeting to order at 6pm after swearing in Abby Bigford, Stacy Aldrich and Jon Helmrich. William Wester Sr. was sworn in earlier that afternoon by Supervisor Chris Roerig.

Board Members Present: Chris Roerig, William Wester, Jon Helmrich, Abby Bigford & Stacy Aldrich

Supervisor Roerig welcomed the newly elected board members to their first board meeting. The recalled board members term ended 11/7/18 at 2:30pm. Wester was sworn in at that time. Remaining members were sworn in prior to start of this meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Roerig asked if there are any changes to the agenda. Wester asked the no changes be made to their agenda the day of as it does not allow proper notice to the public. Helmrich asked the meeting agenda be posted one week prior to the meeting. Abby suggested the only changes the day of be minor housekeeping items. Wester said he will work on this as the newly elected Clerk. Aldrich motioned to approve the agenda, Wester supported. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments:

Toby Hutchins of Fennville spoke as a current Fennville Schools Board Member. He gave a recap of what is happening at Fennville Schools.

- While enrollment is down 20 students, they still have over 1300 students in the district
- New Roof at Fennville Middle School
- Design teams formulating what renovations of the new district will look like. High School construction to begin when school is out, the new transportation building starts when ground thaws.
- New mileage rate will be lower than the 7 mils originally predicted
- Fennville Elementary was one of two schools in Allegan to receive High Leadership Impact Grant for \$20,000 (over 3 years). They have another \$36,000 coming from generous employers and philanthropic families in the OAISD.
- Fennville remains Allegan's most diverse school district
- Graduation Rate at 91% (11% higher than statewide average)

Donna Leonard of Saugatuck Township wanted to thank the outgoing board for being so helpful. Leonard also wanted to thank Township manager Aaron Sheridan for being so helpful and knowledgeable. She wanted to wish the incoming board members the best.

Tony Palega, Fennville – asked for clarification on medical marijuana provision centers. He would like to know if they authorized any grow centers and if so, how many and what size. Roerig asked it be emailed to him and he will ask the appropriate people.

Approval of Invoices

Roerig said since the board had little time to look over the invoices & check register that any questions not covered in today's meeting be addressed at next monthly board meeting. Wester asked why we are paying in 60 days, we should pay bills in 30 days. Roerig agreed and asked that Wester look into. Wester moved to accept accounts payable invoices to be paid for a total of \$28,082.76. Bigford second. Motion passed 5-0.

Minutes

Wester asked that the minutes be more detailed. Helmrich mentioned public comments were lacking substance. The board agrees to video tape and post the meetings. Wester asked for a minute taker so the clerk can be more focused on meeting versus taking minutes. Roerig moves to approved the minutes, Bigford seconds. Motion passes 5-0.

Correspondence

John Seros, Medial Marijuana (Full Letter Attached)

Summary of Letter: Requested that the board reconsider its decision to disallow medical marijuana growing facilities in the township. Asking for indoor growing only in approved zones. Stated there would be a filtration system for order control. He also stressed the urgency in decision being made after newly passed legislation.

The board advised Mr. Seros they would recommend to the planning commission that this be addressed in their next meeting.

Unfinished Business

Sheridan provided an update on AMR and their response time. Based on the report, it appears response times are what would be expected of them. Wester asked Sheridan to review with the fire chief to get his input as well. (Report Attached)

New Business

Poverty Hardship Guidelines – Roerig believes these need to be adopted. Informational packet was distributed to the board. This is an issue reviewed annually. Roerig motions to adapt changes as presented. Wester second. Roll call vote, all voted yes.

Road Plan – No decision needed, just asks the board to review and inform themselves. Focusing on speed traffic control on Blue Star. The Township pays Allegan County to manage the roads. Helmrich asked if residents who are affected by road repairs and changes are being notified. Roerig said there have been some issues with communication due to low staffing, although generally the residents should always be notified prior to work on their road.

Committee Reports

No Report on Planning Commission, Road Committee, Interurban, Fire Board.

Parks Commission – Jim Searing gave an overview to the board on the Parks Commission. The (4) big parks are River Bluff, Dog Park, Sunset Park & Veterans Park. They are planning to replace the bridge on River Bluff pending state approval. They are also hoping to enhance the trails. The gazebo was freshly painted at Veterans Park and the most used/popular park is the Dog Park.

Committee Reports (continued)

Open Board Report – Helmrich said he is honored to be here. Thanked newly elected boards families & supporters. Also send a big thanks to Supervisor Roerig for a great job in handling the transition. Helmrich wanted to mention his mentor Pati Birkholtz, he felt she would be proud to see the current board in place.

Roerig commented he will continue to do he can for the Township, it is time to put the election behind them and with our new (fully capable) board, and continue to provide great service to the people.

Public comment

Erin Wilkinson, Saugatuck – Congrats to the new board. So excited to see that this happened. She will continue to volunteer to video tape meetings. She did suggest purchasing cameras similar to the fire department for meetings. Lastly, she recommended the board consider adapting the international fire code.

Cindy Osman, Michigan – Asks the board consider scheduling a special meeting as well set up training with MI township services to train on their new jobs. She also asks they look into their current staffing and structure and consider consulting outside services to do so.

Donna Leonard – She is sorry to lose those who were replaced on the board, felt the last board was qualified an should have stayed in their position. She asks the new board to seek more public input and have more open lines of communication.

Renette LeFevere, Fennville – Happy to see new board sitting there and looking forward to a great relationship.

Bill LeFevere, Fennville – Let the board know there are (2) Friends of the Blue Star Trail Meetings tomorrow (11/8). One is in Saugatuck at the City Hall at 4pm and the other is at 6pm at Douglas City Hall to review a study that was done to review the plans to have the trail in the Township. Trying to move the trail plans forward and overcome the issues they have had.

Helmrich asked that the board be put on the distribution list for updates and future information.

No further public comments, Supervisor Roerig adjourned meeting at 6:50pm.

Elizabeth Holley, Recording Secretary